

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 811

By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Stanley Raymond Benz
of Bell Buckle.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Stanley Raymond Benz; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benz was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benz served with acumen and alacrity in numerous positions, earning much respect and admiration for his superior knowledge, singular business acumen, and the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, he was active in high school football and basketball, showed prize-winning sheep, and won the Illinois State 4-H Public Speaking Contest with a speech about the right to own and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, he worked in the summers for the Ford County Highway Department and local farmers; he worked nights at the Champaign Urbana Post Office Docks while attending the University of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he married his high school sweetheart, and they moved to Murfreesboro the following year; he worked in sales and management with Glass Specialty Auto Glass, which his father had franchised one year earlier; and

WHEREAS, the family later established Glass Unlimited, which Stan Benz managed and later purchased from his father; under his direction, the company expanded to become a statewide mobile glass company; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Mr. Benz sold the company and retired at the age of forty; one year later, he partnered with Ronnie Barrett to open Barrett Manufacturing; Stan Benz handled sales and third world travel, and

WHEREAS, by the time he sold his interest in 1996, the company, which manufactured 50-caliber sniper rifles, had become a multi-million-dollar corporation, and was highly sought after by Smith and Wesson, Colt, and numerous other industry giants; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Stan Benz became an avid duck hunter and a member of Ducks Unlimited and Murfreesboro Sportsman Club; he later branched out into big game hunting and traveled to Africa on more than thirty safaris to achieve his goal of shooting and bringing home mounts of The Big Five; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benz was a member of Safari Club International and an avid wildlife conservationist and many local children learned about African animals by visiting his vast collection which included all North American game animals and all but three African animals; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mr. Benz married Dawn Essary, and they “retired” to a 700-acre farm in Bell Buckle to raise hay and over 110 cow-calf pairs; soon, they expanded their farming interests to include Boer Goats; and

WHEREAS, excelling in business, Mr. Benz became an industry leader in the exhibition and development of this South African meat goat breed, his herd was worth nearly \$400,000 at the time of his passing and desired by top producers throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benz was a member of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benz was also deeply devoted to his family; he was the proud father of Susan Kay and Robert (Bob) William, the children of his first marriage; Bradford Keohler, the son of his second marriage; and a devoted husband to his third wife, Dawn; and

WHEREAS, Stanley Raymond Benz leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence, and dedication and innovation in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Stanley Raymond Benz, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, exceptional skill and knowledge in business, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Benz.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.